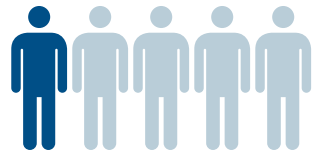
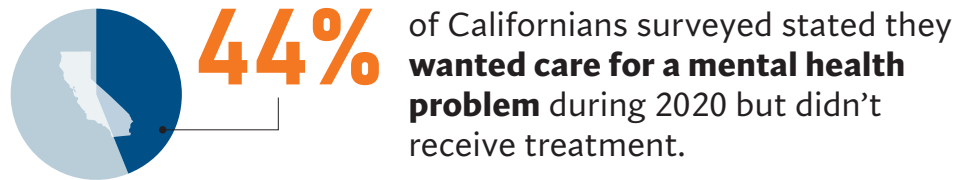


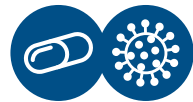
Investments, Coordination Needed to Tackle Behavioral Health Crisis Made Worse by COVID-19

Exacerbated by COVID-19, millions of Californians are not getting the care they need for mental health or substance use disorders.









1 in 5

Prior to the pandemic, an estimated **1 in 5 adults** experienced mental illness each year. During the pandemic, **33% of Americans** experienced high levels of psychological distress.



Nationally, **13% of adults** reported new or increased substance use due to pandemic-related stress. Drug overdose deaths increased sharply during the pandemic in California, **rising 51%** from January 2020-March 2021. Nationally, drug overdose deaths **rose 34%.**

California should establish a baseline dataset to track key behavioral health indicators and monitor progress, aiming to achieve 10% improvement each year in the following:

-  Reduce the delay from the onset of symptoms to engagement in treatment for mental health and substance use disorder needs
-  Reduce the disparities in behavioral health service utilization among racial, ethnic, and sexual orientation/gender identity populations
-  Reduce the proportion of individuals with mental health and substance use disorder needs in jails and prisons
-  Reduce the rate of re-hospitalization following a psychiatric hospitalization
-  Increase the number of children and youth receiving screenings for behavioral health needs
-  Improve the satisfaction of consumers and families with the behavioral health care services they receive